

March 25, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-014

This preliminary notification constitutes **EARLY** notice of events of **POSSIBLE** safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

**Palisades Nuclear Power Plant
Nuclear Management Corporation, LLC
Covert, MI 49043
Docket: 50-255
License: DPR-20**

Licensee Emergency Classification

☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☒ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☐ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: LOSS OF SHUTDOWN COOLING CAUSED BY LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER

DESCRIPTION:

At 11:21 a.m. EST on March 25, 2003, the licensee declared an Alert under its emergency plan as a result of the loss of shutdown reactor cooling capability following a loss of offsite electrical power. The plant has been shut down since March 16, 2003, for refueling and maintenance.

The licensee reported that the circuit breakers, which connect plant electrical buses to the offsite power grid, opened for an unknown cause. The plant's two emergency diesel generators started automatically, and plant safety system electrical loads were transferred to the diesel generators. Shutdown cooling was promptly restored. Reactor cooling system temperature, which had risen about 11 degrees F., was stabilized.

The cause of the electrical system failure is under investigation by the licensee. There was no evidence of tampering or sabotage. At 12:31 p.m. the plant reduced the emergency level to an Unusual Event, after restoring shutdown cooling.

The NRC resident inspectors went to the control room and the Technical Support Center to monitor the licensee's response to the event. Region III (Chicago) staffed its Incident Response Center and entered the monitoring phase of its emergency response procedures.

The State of Michigan was notified and staffed its Emergency Response Center when the Alert was declared.

The licensee will issue a news release on the event. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 1:45 p.m. on March 25, 2003.

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